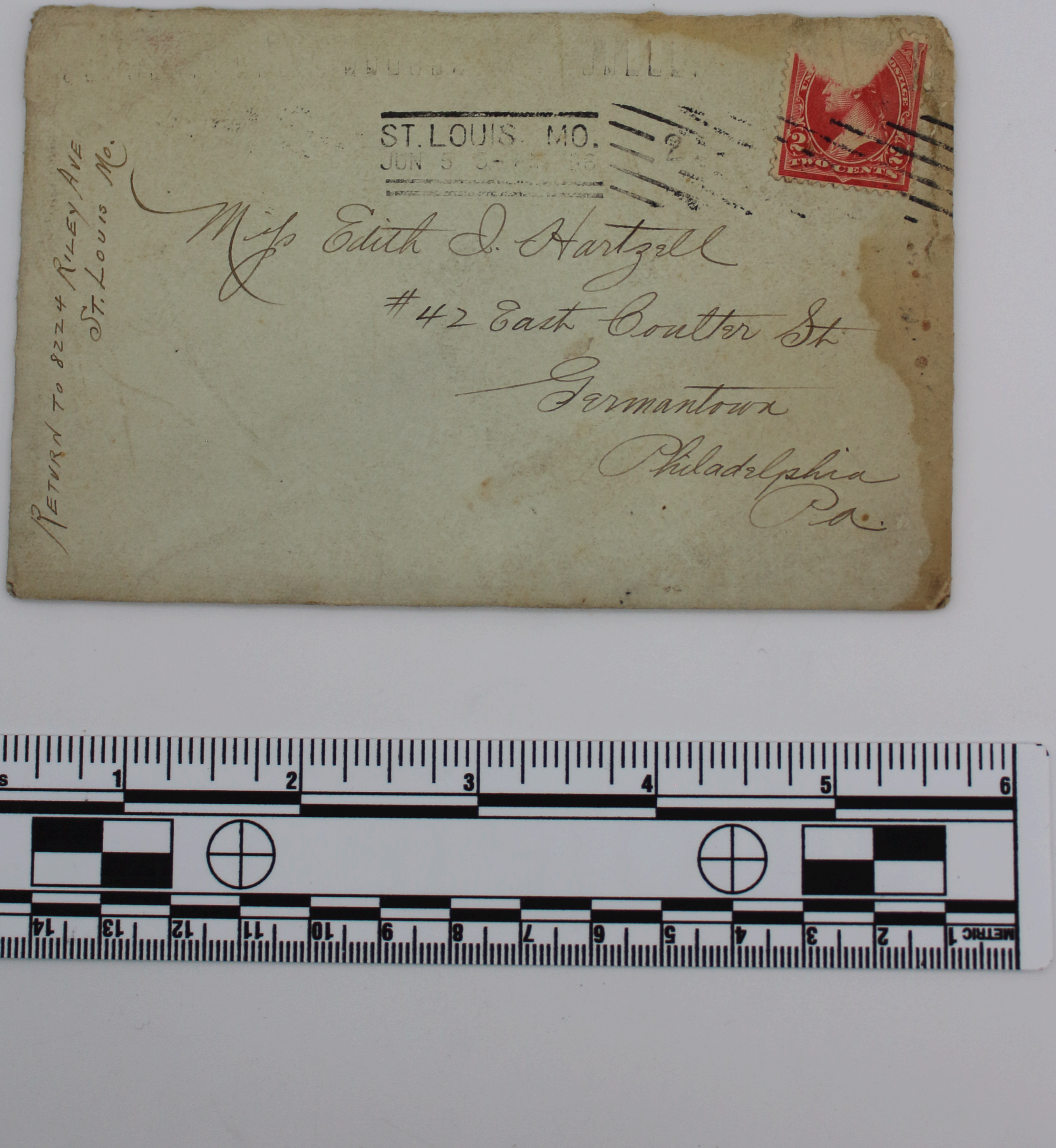
TWO CENTS
2
INCHES
METRIC

Return to 8224 Riley Ave
St. Louis Mo.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
JUN 5 5-PM 96
2

Miss Edith J. Hartzell
#42 East Coulter St
Germantown
Philadelphia
Pa.

JUN 7
230PM

St. Louis
June 4th 1896

Miſs Edith Hartzell

Dear Friend-

Your telegram of last Thursday did not reach us till Saturday and then it came in the mail from the city. I found it here when I reached home about two o'clock and could not answer at once as the wire to the city was not working. I went with Uncle Tom in the evening, to take his trunk to the Union Station as the local trains do not run on Sunday, and while at the depot I answered your telegram. I had written you the evening before, and of course you know by the papers why your telegram was delayed.

I was at the office when the storm struck us and staid there till the worst of it was over. As the storm had blown down all electric wires no street cars were running and I hurried to the R. R. Station to catch a train but no trains left the Station after five o'clock till three o'clock in the morning. I did not know, nor did the R.R. officials till nearly one o'clock that the train would not leave, they expected to be able to get out but had to give it up. I did not know how Carondelet had fared and so decided to walk. Another young man and two young ladies and myself walked down together. We were fortunate to get a ride of about two miles on a horse car, but had to walk the balance of the way. It is about eight miles from the R.R. Station to our home and it was 3:30 A. M when I got here only to find Uncle Aunt Charlay and the baby still out. Fortunately however they were in North St Louis during the storm which did not amount to much in that section, and as no cars were running they could not get home and so they staid at one of the hotels; they reached home about ten o'clock the next morning just after we left home in search of them. We saw them pass us in a wagon and father went back with them while I went on to the office.

I suppose you have read all about it in the

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Newspapers which state the number of Killed in this city to be over 200 with nearly as many in East St Louis while the wounded number over 1000;- the damage to property is estimated all the way from ten to fifty million dollars.

The wrecked district is about a mile wide stretching across the city from west to East and is about 6 miles from here. Very little damage was done in this end of town our damage consisting of a leak in our roof which caused a large wet spot on our parlor ceiling.

Uncle and Aunt and the "little red-head" as you called him left for home Monday Evening - Laura intended to stop at East Palestine. They tried to get away Sunday evening but had to give up, the crowd was so great they could not get to the gate and they had to carry the baby above their heads to get out of the crowd. The R. R Station was filled with people who had come in on Excursion trains to see the ruins - some place the number as high as 160,000.

If Uncle Ed Laura enjoyed their visit as much as we did they certainly had a good time - by the way you might ask her if she thinks I got even with her for the tricks she played on me.

And so you received an anonymous letter, did you? - and you recognized my "print" - Well perhaps if it were not for the address you would not have known who it came from.

I am pleased to know

that you enjoyed your sail
so well and having in mind
your message to me through Laura
I can picture you standing on
the beach laughing with ghoulish
glee as you see me on the
wild waves in a little sail
boat with my hat overboard
and my collar broken at
the button hole as I frantically
endeavor to keep from following the afore-said headgear.

I guess I am as thin
as I appear to be in the
Minnette sent you as I

am never fat – how about yourself? Are you as "fat" as you were two years ago? Just before the folks left for home we all weighed and my weight was 131 lbs.

I thank you very much for the paper weight which reached me in good condition and which I make good use of at the office. I brought it home to show Uncle Tom and Laura.

It appears to me you have rather hot weather at Atlantic City for a summer resort – we had it about as hot until the

almost anonymous

storm, since which it has been cooler — however it was very warm today.

I am very sorry to hear that you will not be at Pittsburg next month as I thought to have the pleasure of seeing you there again. I notice your suggestion that I "stop off" at Philadelphia "on my way from Washington to Pittsburg" — Of course you were not looking at a map when you wrote that, You also state that if I visit Aunt Margaret you might catch a "glimpse" of me. Is that all you would have time for? The suggestions strikes me favorably and I have been thinking of it. One draw back is that Aunt Margaret has no home that I could visit. Suppose I were to come, would you be at liberty to meet me at the depot and spend two or three days sight-seeing with me? I think if I got that far I would want to run across to Atlantic City to see the old Atlantic. I think I shall leave here on the B and O about July 7th, -that is the date the C. E. delegation from St Louis leaves.

And so you have had a ride on a Duplex. I have seen several Duplex or Companion wheels but I do not remember having seen the Wolff-American. I suppose that by this time you have purchased a bicycle and learned to ride, Shall I bring my bicycle with with me and take a ride with you? In reply to your question - the M. P. Conference was held in Kansas City - Kansas which is really part of K. C. Mo but the State line divides them, it is across the state - nearly 300 miles from here,

Well I guess this letter is long enough and I will ask that you let me hear from you very soon so that I may know whether to figure on going to Philadelphia. I will send this to the address you gave Uncle Bill as I suppose that is your latest address - will also send you a paper decribing the cyclone. All join in best regards - Remember me to Aunt M.

Yours Truly
Thos. E Evans -